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Sanitary report from Manila, Philippine Islands.

[No. 32.]

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Manila, Philippine Islands, February 24, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to make most favorable report upon the health and climate of the Philippine Islands, and so do in order to refute untrue statements found in the American press.

Being within the tropics, we, of course, have not the invigorating effects of frost, and temperature averages high. At Manila about 70.30° F., but extremes are not wide apart, and during the last year I heard of no temperature below 57° F. in the islands and none below the sixties in Manila.

Mercury in the shade rarely rises above 85° nor above 95° in the sun.

Being on the coast of a bay so large as to be almost an inland sea, and having 8 miles to the east a lake having 100 miles of shore and whose waters seek the bay through the large and rapid Pasig, the city of Manila has constant air from active waters, and this combined with sea breezes, the constant friend of islands, gives to Manila fresh air at all times.

The sewers of Manila are not good; can never be first-class, because of the low level of its area, but the rainfall is here above 10 feet per annum and quite evenly distributed, so that our streets are rain swept and the sewers well flushed almost every day. There is also an advantage in hot, wet weather in hastening the decay of vegetable or animal matter, which, when dead, soon rots and is washed away.

Our streets are liberally wet down from our city water supply, which is abundant beyond our wants, so we use it as freely as needed. This water is carried in large iron pipes about 7 miles from spring sources, and is exceptionally pure and agreeable to taste. I freely use it every day as a beverage, have never experienced ill effects therefrom, and have not been sick a minute since I left America in 1897.

In filthy quarters smallpox may be found almost any day, but few deaths result, and the destruction of some low quarters and the improved street cleaning under the present government increase health. The death rate is small and only proper living is required to enjoy life.

I have the honor to remain, your obedient servant,

O. F. WILLIAMS,
United States Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

Sanitary report from Ponce, Porto Rico.

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, *April 5, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following consolidated report of the operations of the Service for the month of March, 1899: Total number of vessels inspected during the month, 48; total number inspected during March, 1898 (comparative), 37.

After careful consideration, I am led to the conclusion that a disinfecting barge located in this harbor will answer the present requirements of this island. Such a barge should be fitted up in the United States, as early as practicable, upon the plan of the *Protector*.

Vessels requiring treatment can be remanded to this point in a few